Number of AUcrafts for VIPs

@1183. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :
KUMARI ALIA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the models and number of aircraft included in the VIP Squadron ;

(b) whether any aircraft, presently, included in the VIP squadron has completed its working life and need to be replaced ;

(c) whether it is proposed to acquire more aircraft for the VIP and VVlP's ;

(d) whether suitable aircraft have been short listed for the purpose ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGBW THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The following IAF aircraft, earmarked for use by the VIPs have sufficient working life :

Model	No. of aircraft
HS-748	7
B-737	2
Mi-8	6

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Jawafcar Tunnel as Jaminu-Srinagar Road

@@1184. SHRI SHABB1R AHMAD SALARIA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the agency whiph constructed the Jawahar Tunnel in peer PanjaJ on Jararmi-

@′ PYevidilsly Unstarred Question 79, transfefrtd from the 28th April, 1992.

@@ Previously Unstarred Question 237, transferred from the 29th April, 1992.

Srinagar Road together with its life span and when it was constructed ; and

(b) whether Government propose to construct a new tunnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Jawahar Tunnel was constructed by a West German Consortium, M/s Alfred Kunz and C BARESAL, and was completed in 1960. The tunnel has been designed to have a long life.

(b) No, Sir.

Extension in retirement age of NCC officers'

1185. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRU-MBI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have arrived at any decision in extending the retirement age of N.C.C. Officers working in Delhi Administration Schools/Colleges from 50 years to 55 years ; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons for such a long delay and by when the decision is likely to be taken to give the benefit to those N.C.C. Officers who have already conipleted 50 years of age ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF TH-E MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Central Advisory Committee on NCC^at its Meeting held on 13 Feb 1987, had recommended raising of the age of relinquishment of commission for Male Part-time NCC Officers to 50 years, extendable to 55 yearsin special cases. An amendment to the NCC Rules to this effect was notified on 24 Dec. 1988. In the meantime, certain officers who completed 50 years of age on or after *11* Feb.- 67 but - before 24th Dec. 88 were allowed to continue to work

as Caretakers. This also includes certain personnel of schools and colleges under the Delhi Administration. The Ministry of Law & Justice has advised that the said amendment cannot have retrospective effect. A case for the regularisation of services of such NCC Associate Officers is under consideration, in consultation with the Ministry of Law & Justice.

Main Battle Tank Project

1186. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the *Time of India* dated the 27th March, 1992 captioned 'Arjuna' tank full of faults ;

(b) what is the progress made so far in respect of the Main Battle Tank (MBT) project ;

(c) the estimated cost involved so far ; and

(d) by when it is likely to be accomplished ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, the news report has a number of gross inaccuracies. Main Battle Tank (MBT) ARJUN, is in advanced stage of development and' trials. As is common in any trial process for a major weapon system development programme, certain shortcomings were noticed in ammunition firing and track links, which'have since been rectified. During recent firing trials, the tank has shown very promising results. As an ongoing activity, reliability of the tank is being improved. Wfien ready, after completion of trials, ARJUN would be a state-of-the-art tank comparable with other world tanks of its class.

(b) 12 Prototypes including 2 fully inte grated prototypes of MBT ARJUN have been fabricated. These are at present under going automotive and weapon systems trials. Orders have been placed for fabrication of 6 pre-production series tanks for extensive users trials and to facilitate transfer of technology to the manufacturing agencies. Two tanks have been fabricated and are being sent for trials during the summer period in 1992. The remaining 4 pre-produc tion series are likely to be ready by Dec. '92.

(c) A sum of Rs. 225,44 crores has been spent/committed on this project, as on 31 Dec, 1991.

(d) Main Battle' Tank ARJUN is expected to be ready for production after completion of trials in 1993.

Exodus of Officers from Nary

1187. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the *Indian Express* dated the 18th March, 1992 under the caption "Exodus of officers puts Navy in the dock" and whether Government have enquired into the matter, if so, the details thereof ;

(b) what is the number of commodores, commanders and captains who left the Navy dining 1989-90 and 1990-91, separately ;

(c) what are the basic reasons for their leaving the Navy ; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to check the exodus of Naval officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR),: (a) to (d) The Government have seen the news item referred to;